

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2667

Introduced by Assembly Member Hayashi

February 22, 2008

An act to add Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 4099) to Part 1 of Division 4 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to mental health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2667, as introduced, Hayashi. Suicide prevention hotlines.

Existing law, the California Suicide Prevention Act of 2000, permits the State Department of Mental Health to undertake various suicide prevention activities, contingent upon appropriation in the annual Budget Act, including authorizing the department to establish a multicounty 24-hour centralized suicide crisis line integrated network.

This bill would require each county mental health agency to establish and maintain a 24-hour suicide prevention telephone hotline that meets specified criteria. This would provide that its provisions shall be operative January 1, 2012. By requiring new duties of county mental health agencies, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 4099) is added to Part 1 of Division 4 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

CHAPTER 7. SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE ACT

4099. This chapter shall be known, and may be cited, as the Suicide Prevention Hotline Act.

4099.1. Each county shall establish and maintain a 24-hour suicide prevention telephone hotline, in accordance with Section 4099.2.

4099.2. (a) Each county mental health agency shall establish a local suicide prevention telephone hotline, which shall be operated on a 24-hour-per-day basis. Counties that demonstrate a lesser need for hotline services may share a hotline, with the approval of the State Department of Mental Health.

(b) A hotline required by this section shall satisfy both of the following criteria:

(1) The hotline shall be operated by an entity that is a member of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration funded National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and that meets all national standards established by that organization.

(2) The hotline shall respond to all local crisis calls, including all local calls to the two national suicide hotline telephone numbers, 800-SUICIDE and 800-273-TALK.

(3) The hotline shall maintain a comprehensive database of information on local mental health resources to provide callers with appropriate referrals for additional help.

4099.3. This chapter shall become operative January 1, 2012.

SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.